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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

This letter is an effort to encourage you and the federal government to proceed with the settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust case. This controversy has had a debilitating effect on one of our most innovative and productive companies and its dynamic industry without producing any noticeable benefit to anyone other than the legal profession. My greatest concern is that this is diverting resources from the more important objective of fighting terrorism. That is a topic for a much longer letter.

The settlement plan calls for these concessions from Microsoft:

- Abandon its more tenacious marketing practices.

- License its systems products to the largest computer manufacturers on nearly uniform terms.

- Make Windows systems accessible to non-Windows software.

- Disclose to competitors various internal interfaces of Windows.

In a nutshell Microsoft is going to crack its own shell and open itself up to competition.

Please look favorably on the settlement. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James L. Smith

